

June 1999

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Director's Note

As you can see the first WCWL newsletter has, indeed, been followed by a second number, and we hope to make this a monthly missive outlining the progress of the Western Canada Waiting List Project. The number of pages will vary also depending upon the amount of information for circulation.

The big news this month relates to the development of the multidisciplinary panels. The Steering Committee selected 5 Regional Health Authorities to serve as host sites for the panels, and members for the panels are being recruited.

Next month THE UPDATE will focus on the detailed workplan for the project and will describe the highlights of the June 25 & 26 meeting of Partners in Calgary.

Your replies to my request for comments on the newsletter's name and design have been taken to heart. It appears that you like the name THE UPDATE but felt the need for a distinctive logo. Stay tuned for the July issue.

- John J McGurran, Project Director

Panel Hosts & Co-Chairs

Response by the WCWL RHAs to serve as primary host of the five clinical panels provided the Steering Committee with a very difficult job to do. There are 5 panels but 7 applicants. Those RHAs which will not serve as a primary host will be given first choice in nominating members to all panels and in serving as pilot test sites.

The host sites are as follows:

Cataract Surgery Panel – Saskatoon District Health, Dr Ken Romanchuk, Co-Chair

Hip & Knee Replacement Panel – Capital Health Authority, Dr Gordon Arnett, Co-Chair

Children's Mental Health Panel – Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, Dr Derryck Smith, Co-Chair

MRI Scanning Panel – Calgary Regional Health Authority, Dr Rob Sevick, Co-Chair

General Surgery Panel – Winnipeg Hospital Authority, Dr Mark Taylor, Co-Chair

Dr David Hadorn serves as Co-Chair of all 5 panels. The process of appointing members to the panels is in progress and is expected to be completed by mid summer. In all about 50 clinicians will participate in this process.

WCWL Partners' Meeting

All 19 WCWL Partners have been invited to attend a meeting on June 25 & 26 at the Calgary Airport Hotel. In addition, we will welcome the newly appointed Panel Co-Chairs and members.

The purpose of this session is to begin the process of moving the project forward from the Steering Committee to the 5 multidisciplinary clinical panels. This two-day session will begin with meetings of the Steering Committee and the Partners on Friday afternoon.

A late afternoon round-table session describing local waiting list initiatives will feature short presentations from several WCWL Partners, followed by discussion. Included on the agenda are Carolyn DeCoster (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation), Sam Sheps and Charles Wright (UBC), Neil Fatin (BC Ministry of Health), Isra Levy (Canadian Medical Association) and Hugh Walker (Alberta Health).

We are extremely fortunate to have John Yates (Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham) to provide a keynote address on Friday evening. Dr. Yates' talk is entitled "The English Patient – Fifty Years of Waiting in the NHS."

J Ivan Williams (CEO, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Toronto) will introduce us to the data and information system requirements associated with this project. Jack's talk is entitled "Waiting Lists Registry and Outcome; Can We Build a Useful Information System?"

Advice from someone who has had first hand practical knowledge about the workings of clinical panels in the Canadian CPG context will be presented by Stewart McMillan (family physician in Regina and past Chair of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission). His talk is entitled "Clinical Panels: Science, Evidence, Give & Take? A View from the Trenches."

The final Saturday afternoon session will come from WCWL Research Director David Hadorn. Drawing on his related experiences in New Zealand and comprehensive knowledge of the field, he will speak directly about the nitty-gritty details of the work the panel members will undertake in this project.

The Chair of this meeting will be Tom Noseworthy (Chair of WCWL Project and of the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta). Tom has provided leadership to the WCWL project since its inception and he will welcome members to the meeting on Friday and provide closing remarks on Saturday.

WCWL Website Approved

This project is predominantly western in its composition but national in terms of the issues it addresses; therefore we thought it appropriate to apply for the .ca domain for the website.

Application to CDNET was made with the assistance of Telus, and the address was designated for our use. While we hope to have the website up by the time of the June 25 & 26 Calgary meeting, it will likely be "under construction" until a webmaster can be recruited.

The website will initially contain a link to all WCWL partners and their websites. All WCWL publications, including THE UPDATE will be available, as will progress notes from the multidisciplinary clinical panels and related information.

In the interim, here are a couple of affiliated websites you may want to have a look at.

This first is a link to where the WCWL project is described on the Health Transition Fund's site:

<http://www.hcsc.gc.ca/english/archives/releases/list.htm>

The second provides a link to the executive summary of the report "Waiting Lists and Waiting Times for Health Care in Canada: More Management!! More Money??" by Paul McDonald, Sam Shortt, Claudia Sanmartin, Morris Barer, Steven Lewis and Sam Sheps:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/nbrdp/wlsum5.htm>

UPDATE

WESTERN CANADA WAITING LIST PROJECT

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